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In reply please refer to: HRP
Prière de rappeler la référence:

8 May 1978

Dear Josh,

Professor Egon Diczfalusy has sent me a copy of your correspondence with Congressman McCloskey.

... I enclose for your interest a copy of the testimony I gave last week to the Select Committee on Population of the U.S. House of Representatives. Thanks to your efforts and those of other colleagues in the USA, the Committee, and especially Congressman McCloskey, have been very positive towards a US contribution to the Programme which, at this stage, is very much needed. The only opposition seems to be from Drs Ravenholt and Speidel of the Office of Population of the Agency for International Development; their stance is very regrettable and quite incomprehensible.

You have pinpointed a very important problem, the concern with side-effects of contraceptive agents, especially cancer. It is hard at this stage to predict to what extent the USFDA decision will in fact bring the large-scale trials of DMPA and norethisterone oenanthate supported by the Programme to a standstill. There certainly continues to be a great deal of interest and demand by developing country authorities for WHO collaboration in assessing the safety of the injectables. A month ago we received a new request from one Government to formulate a study on DMPA and the issue of neoplasia. I am sending you, under separate cover, a technical report which has just come out on the whole problem of hormonal contraceptives and neoplasia. Three years ago, in relation to the beagle problem, we carried out a feasibility study of what kind of investigation would be required in beagles and other animal models to improve the toxicological assessment of hormonal contraceptives. Unfortunately, we simply did not have the funds required for the protocol that was put together.

... I also enclose a copy of the report of the Review of the Programme to which you refer in your letter.

Congratulations on the Rockefeller University Presidency. I spent five very happy years in that place, and would very much like to talk to you about the institution one of these days.

Cordially yours,

Dr J. Lederberg
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... ENCS. As stated.

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